

Niki Zohdi

**Voluntary**  
*2023*

baritone & piano

Niki Zohdi

# Voluntary

2023

*for*  
baritone & piano

Duration: c.4'30"

**Voluntary**  
**by Adrian Salmon**

And if you ask us why we do this, we might speak  
about tradition, about a thousand years of music  
from Perotin to Pärt, about dark wood and glinting brasses,  
about gold mosaic tiles, about bringing the air alive  
in this old space.

Some of us may be believers, some not.

But when we really speak, it'll be about each other,  
about David's amazing bottom Ds, how we can always rely  
on Lizzie to help us through a tricky rhythm,  
about that look that Alex gives us

that makes us sure we can relax and breathe and sing;

how we know, with no-one telling us,

if we weren't here we would be missed.

True faith, as the centurion knew it in his bones.

*Locus iste a Deo factus est.* This priceless sacrament.

This piece was written for the 2023 Leeds Lieder Festival and the associated Composer & Poet Forum. The piece was first performed on 13 June, 2023 at Leeds Conservatoire by Florian Störtz and Mark Rogers.

The song is dedicated to all the voluntary and professional musicians at Leeds Minster, and was written in collaboration with the poet, Adrian Salmon.

Dedicated, with admiration, to the professional and voluntary musicians at Leeds Minster

# Voluntary

Adrian Salmon

Niki Zohdi

Slow & Restrained ♩ = 60

Baritone

*pp*  
*sotto voce*

*p*

And if you ask us why we do—

Piano

8va—

Slow & Restrained ♩ = 60

*pp*

*pp*

4

Bar.

*pp* *mp* *p*

— this, we might speak a-bout tra—

Pno.

(8)

*ppp* *mp* *pp*

*ppp* *mp* *pp*

2

9

mf p mf mp

Bar. di tion, from

Pno. mf

accel.

13

Faster ♩ = 68 (♩ = 136)

p pp

Bar. Pé ro - tin, to Pärt, a - bout

Pno. pp mp p

Faster ♩ = 68 (♩ = 136)

18

mp

Bar. dark wood and

Pno. p ppp ppp

pp

rit. → ♩ = 60

21 *mf* *f* *mp*

Bar. *mf* *f* *mp*

glin - ting bras - ses, a - bout gold <sup>3</sup> mo - saic tiles,

Pno. *mf* *f* *p*



26 *pp*

Bar. *pp*

a - bout bring - ing the air a - live

Pno. *pp*



30 *ppp* *p*

Bar. *ppp* *p*

in this old space. Some

Pno. *p*

rit. → ♩ = 52

33 *mp*

Bar. *mp*  
of us may - be be - liev

Pno. *ppp* *p*

35 *Lilting* ♩ = 90 *mf*

Bar. *mf*  
ers, some not. But

Pno. *mf* *Lilting* ♩ = 90

39 *f* *mf*

Bar. *f* *mf*  
when we rea - lly speak, it will be a-bout each

Pno. *mp* *mf*

42 *f* ♩ = 68

Bar. *f* o - ther, a - bout Da vid's a -

Pno. *f*

46 *ff* *mf*

Bar. ma - zing bot - tom Ds, how we can

Pno. *mp* *mp*

49 *f*

Bar. al ways re - ly on Liz - zie

Pno. *p* *p*

52 *mp* *p* *mp*

Bar. *(b)* to help us through a tri - cky rhy ——— thm,

Pno. *pp* *pp*

55 *mf* *f* *mf*

Bar. a - bout that look that A - lex gives us that makes us

Pno. *mf* *mp* *pp*

60 *p* *pp*

Bar. sure we can re - lax and breathe and sing;

Pno. *pp* *pp*

rit. ———  $\text{♩} = 60$



65 *p*

Bar. *p*

how we know, with no - one tel - ling us,

Pno. *p*



68 *pp*  $\text{♩} = 52$

Bar. *pp*

if we weren't here we would be missed.

Pno. *pp* *ppp* *pp*



72 *pp* *sotto voce*

Bar. *pp* *sotto voce*

True faith,

Pno. *pp*

75 *p*

Bar. as the cen - tu - rion knew it in his bones.

Pno. *p* *pp* *p* *pp*

79 *pp*

Bar. Lo - cus i - ste a De - o fac - tus est.

Pno. *pp*

83 *ppp*

Bar. This price - less sa - cra - ment.

Pno. *ppp* *ppp*